

BILL ANALYSIS

By: Montford

S.B. 683
Enrolled

BACKGROUND:

In 1985, the 69th Legislature passed House Joint Resolutions 6 and 7, and H.B. 2, providing for a comprehensive statewide water program. Texas voters approved the constitutional amendments in November, 1985. Additionally, the Texas Department of Water Resources was reorganized under the Sunset Review process. As a result of the water legislation and reorganization of the water agencies, agreement of jurisdiction over bays and estuaries has been unresolved.

PURPOSE:

As proposed, S.B. 683 codifies the agreement made between the water agencies with respect to jurisdiction of bays and estuaries.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY:

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS:

SECTION 1. Renumbers Section 11.149, Water Code, as Section 11.1491 and amends Section 11.1491 as follows:

Sec. 11.1491. Retitles the section. Requires the Water Commission and the Parks and Wildlife Commission to have joint responsibility for the review of bays and estuaries studies and to determine inflow conditions for the bays and estuaries. Substitutes "commission" for "department," and "reports" for "studies."

(b) Authorizes the addition of the executive administrator of the Water Development Board (board) as a member of the group establishing an advisory council. Adds a representative of the board as a member of the advisory council, and specifies that there shall be one representative each from commercial fishing groups and recreational fishing groups. Changes references from the department to the commission.

(c) Amends references from the department to the commission.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 16.058, Water Code, as follows:

Sec. 16.058. Retitles the section. (a) Provides for the department and the board to have joint responsibility to operate a bay and estuary data collection and evaluation program and conduct studies on bay and estuary ecology.

(b) Requires the department and the board to divide the personnel and equipment responsibilities of the program studies.

(c) Requires mutual access for the department and the board to all information produced by the two agencies.

(d) Requires the completion of the studies by December 31, 1989. Requires publication for comment of such studies.

(e) Allows the board to authorize the use of money from the research and planning fund established by Chapter 15 of this code to accomplish the purposes of this section. Requires the money to be used by the board and the department for interagency contracts with cooperating agencies, universities, and the private sector.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 11.147(c), Water Code, to amend a section reference.

SECTION 4. Effective date. September 1, 1987.

SECTION 5. Emergency clause.

DBM 10.05.88